

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed June 18, 2003. In the Office Action, the Examiner allowed claims 1-12, rejected Claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bhagavatula *et al.* (United States Patent No. 4,889,404), and objected to claims 14-20 as being dependent upon claim 13.

Claims 1-20 remain pending in the application. Reconsideration in light of the amendments and remarks made herein is respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objects to claims 14-20 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but indicates that they would be allowable otherwise. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the objection to claims 14-20 because Applicants have cancelled claim 14 and amended claim 13 to incorporate the language of claim 14 such that claims 15-20 are now in condition for allowance.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejects claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 4,889,404 to Bhagavatula *et al.* Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated because claim 13 has been amended such that it is no longer anticipated by the Bhagavatula patent.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter. The Examiner objects to claims 14-20 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicates that the claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form





including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have amended independent claim 13 to include the limitation of dependent claim 14 and cancelled claim 14. Applicants have renumbered the claims from which old 15, 16 and 18 depend to match the newly amended claim numbers. Applicants respectfully request that independent claim 13 and all claims that depend therefrom now be allowed.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the claims in view of the amendments and remarks made herein. In view of the amendments and remarks made above, it is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully solicited. Should the examiner be interested, Applicants respectfully request a telephone interview to discuss whatever additional questions or comments the examiner may have.

Authorization is hereby given to charge our Deposit Account No. 501990 for any charges or extension of time fees that may be due under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Respectfully submitted,

GORDON & REES, LLP

Marc E. Hankin, Esq.
Registration No. 38,908
Dated: December 15, 2003